



**4310-84-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**43 CFR Part 3100**

**[LLWO3100 L13100000.PP0000]**

**RIN 1004-AE41**

**Oil and Gas Leasing; Royalty on Production, Rental Payments, Minimum Acceptable Bids, Bonding Requirements, and Civil Penalty Assessments**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Advance notice of proposed rulemaking; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** On April 21, 2015, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published in the Federal Register an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) to solicit public comments and suggestions that may be used to update the BLM's regulations related to royalty rates, annual rental payments, minimum acceptable bids, bonding requirements, and civil penalty assessments for Federal onshore oil and gas leases. In response to requests received for additional time to provide comment, the BLM is announcing by issuance of this notice that the public comment period for the ANPR will be extended 14 days beyond the end of the initial comment period.

**DATES:** The comment period for the ANPR published April 21, 2015 (80 FR 22148), is extended. Send your comments on this proposed rule to the BLM on or before June 19, 2015. The BLM need not consider, or include in the administrative record for the final

rule, comments that the BLM receives after the close of the comment period or comments delivered to an address other than those listed below (see **ADDRESSES**).

**ADDRESSES:** Mail: U.S. Department of the Interior, Director (630), Bureau of Land Management, Mail Stop 2134 LM, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240, Attention: 1004-AE41. Personal or messenger delivery: Bureau of Land Management, 20 M Street, SE, Room 2134 LM, Attention: Regulatory Affairs, Washington, DC 20003. Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions at this Website.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dylan Fuge, Office of the Director, at 202-208-5235, Steven Wells, Division of Fluid Minerals, at 202-912-7143, or Jilly McQuilliams, Division of Fluid Minerals, at 202-912-7156, for information regarding the substance of this ANPR. For information on procedural matters or the rulemaking process generally, you may contact Anna Atkinson, Regulatory Affairs, at 202-912-7438. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to contact the above individuals.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Public Comment Procedures**

If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods:

Mail: You may mail comments to U.S. Department of the Interior, Director (630), Bureau of Land Management, Mail Stop 2134LM, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240, Attention: 1004-AE41. Personal or messenger delivery: Bureau of Land Management, 20 M Street, SE, Room 2134 LM, Attention: Regulatory Affairs,

Washington, DC 20003. Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Follow the instructions at this Website.

Please make your comments as specific as possible by confining them to issues directly related to the content of the ANPR, and explain the basis for your comments. The comments and recommendations that will be most useful and likely to influence agency decisions are:

1. Those supported by quantitative information or studies; and
2. Those that include citations to, and analyses of, the applicable laws and regulations.

The BLM is not obligated to consider or include in the Administrative Record for the rule comments received after the close of the comment period (see **DATES**) or comments delivered to an address other than those listed above (see **ADDRESSES**).

Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the address listed under **ADDRESSES** during regular hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Before including your address, telephone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

### **Background**

The ANPR was published on April 21, 2015 (80 FR 22148), with a 45-day comment period closing on June 5, 2015. The ANPR poses questions and seeks information related to potential updates and changes to the BLM's existing regulations governing

Federal onshore oil and gas leases related to royalty rates, annual rental payments, minimum acceptable bids, bonding requirements, and civil penalty assessments.

Following publication of the ANPR, the BLM received requests for extension of the comment period. In response to those requests, the BLM has decided to extend the comment period on the rule for 14 days, until June 19, 2015.

Dated: May 26, 2015.

Janice M. Schneider,  
Assistant Secretary,  
Land and Minerals Management.

[FR Doc. 2015-13474 Filed: 6/2/2015 08:45 am; Publication Date: 6/3/2015]